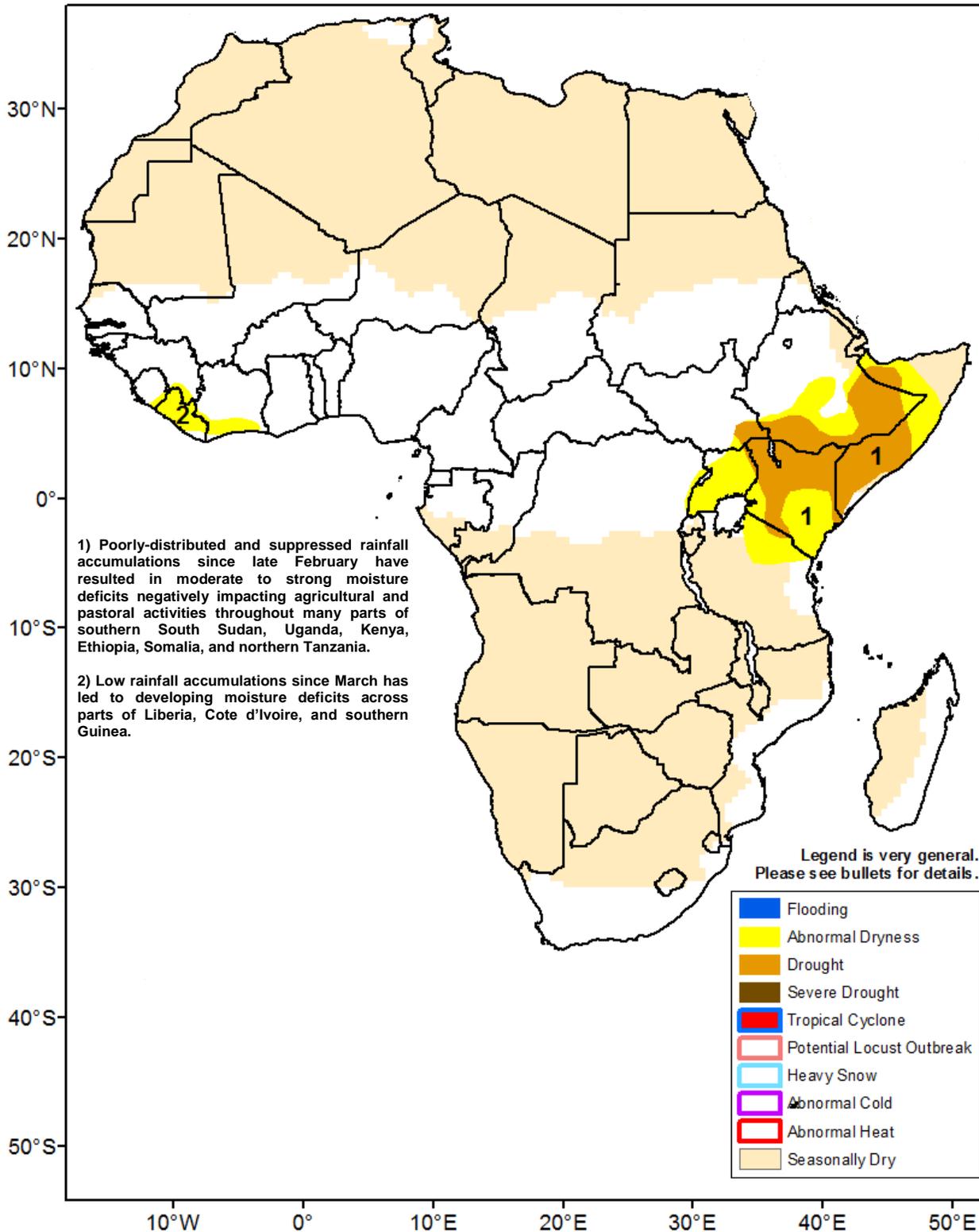




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook June 15 – June 21, 2017

- Rain was well distributed across West Africa and was especially heavy in southern Liberia.



Ample early season rains continue over parts of Sahel.

During the last seven days, seasonal rainfall over West Africa continued to increase and shift northwards into parts of the Sahel. According to satellite rainfall estimates, the highest weekly accumulations (>200mm) were received over southern portions of Liberia and Cote D'Ivoire, with more moderate, but well-distributed, rainfall amounts received towards the north (Figure 1). A surge of moisture and rainfall was observed across parts of Mali, Niger, and Mauritania during the last week.

Recently, only small changes to the performance of West Africa rainfall and in the distribution of seasonal moisture anomalies have occurred. Analysis of current 30-day precipitation anomalies depicts generally average to above-average rainfall conditions in northern portions of West Africa (lower Sahel), with pockets of below-average conditions in the Gulf of Guinea countries. The anomalous early season wetness is mainly prevalent over Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger, where many local areas have received nearly twice as much rainfall as usual during the last 30 days (Figure 2). This surplus in moisture is expected to benefit ground conditions for subsequent cropping activities this season. Conversely, suppressed rainfall has led to persistent moisture deficits over Liberia, and in some neighboring provinces of southern Cote D'Ivoire and Sierra Leone. A recent increase in rainfall has dramatically improved conditions for local parts of southern Liberia.

For the upcoming outlook period, models suggest enhanced rains over much of the region. This includes parts of Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, southern Mali, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Increased rainfall should help mitigate early season dryness in some of these areas and improve ground conditions for cropping activities.

Anomalous heavy rainfall continues over parts of South Sudan and Sudan.

The region's heaviest rainfall was concentrated over northeastern South Sudan and neighboring areas of southern Sudan. These areas received anywhere from 50 to more than 100mm of rainfall according to satellite estimates. Meanwhile, late-season showers all but shut off across the Horn. Rains continued over central and western Ethiopia, but were less than normal. While much of the East Africa experienced a very poor Mar-May rains season, the performance of seasonal rainfall further north in Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Sudan has been uncharacteristically early and wet compared to climatology. Many areas of western Ethiopia have experienced several consecutive weeks of above-average rainfall, which has led to a strengthening of moisture surpluses throughout the region. Analysis of latest 30-day precipitation anomalies suggests many areas having received more than twice their normal accumulation (Figure 2), with similar positive anomalies observed as far as southwestern Sudan. This is expected to be favorable for both pastoral and agro-pastoral areas, however, continued heavy rains over these areas also increases the risk for flooding through June.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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